The Government has taken various steps which include sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated actions by concerned Central/ State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding Pak ISI agents, antinational elements and insurgents.

Census of Christians by South Delhi Police

1611. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a news-item "Police Begin Christian Census, Say It's For Security Reasons" in the "Indian Express" dated February 3, 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that the South Delhi Police has taken up the identification of Christian citizens on a premise basis;

(c) if so, whether Government agree with such an action of the police because it raises apprehensions among the minority, as alleged in the report; and

(d) the Governments response to the alleged action of the police?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, Delhi Police have issued a denial to the report contained in the said news item.

Influx from Bangladesh in Siliguri

1612. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India of February, 15, 1999 to the effect that significant demographic changes in Siliguri District have alarmed Government agencies;

(b) if so, whether influx from Bangladesh has led to increase in the Muslim population and a large number of Madrassas are coming up a recent years; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in Muslim population is attributable to several factors including influx of people from across the border. A number of Madrassas have come up in the close vicinity of the West bengal-Bangladesh border during last few years.

(c) Action to strengthen vigilance has been taken in consultation with the Government of West Bengal. In addition a series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of Outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

Communal Violence

1613. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of communal violence during 1998; month-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in these incidents;

(c) whether Government have identified the forces behind these incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) Though 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, the Central Government has been taking several